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also called **hydroxyapatite** phosphate mineral, calcium hydroxide phosphate [$\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$], that forms glassy, often green crystals and masses. It is seldom pure in nature but often occurs mixed with fluorapatite, in which fluorine substitutes for the hydroxyl (OH) group in the molecule. This mixture, called a **solid-solution** series, is a continuous chemical variation between the two pure substances. **Collophane**, the apatite in fossil bone and phosphate rock belongs to the series. For physical properties, see **phosphate mineral** (table).

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rare mineral, a hydrated calcium phosphate ($\text{CaHPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$), that forms colourless to pale-yellow, transparent to translucent efflorescences or tiny crystals. It occurs in small quantities in many phosphate deposits, particularly as an incrustation on ancient bones and as a decomposition product of guano (seafowl excrement). It dehydrates readily to form monetite. For detailed physical properties, see [phosphate mineral](#) (table).

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